



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

October 2016

Freedom of Information Request Reference N^o: FOI 003613/16

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 3rd October 2016 in which you sought access to the following information:

- 1 I wish to know how many times you received a report of an under-18-year-old going missing in your region over the last three years, divided by financial year, 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. (So if one child went missing three times, they would be recorded here as 'three'.)
- 2 How many individual under-18s went missing at least once in that year? (So if one child when missing three times, they would be recorded here as 'one'.)
- 3 Can you let me know, for each of the above years, how many times a missing under-18 was found inside your county or borders?
- 4 Can you let me know, for each of the above years, how many times a missing under-18 was found outside your county or borders?
- 5 How many under-18s, as of the 1st October 2016, do you have who are still classified as 'missing?'

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

Response to your Request

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve all of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what relevant information is held we have contacted our Safeguarding and Investigations Command. They have advised that the information for questions 3 and 4 of your request is not held in a format that can be extracted electronically. Therefore it would be necessary to manually review over 1,000 records for each year that you have requested.

Even based on just 2 or 3 minutes each, this would considerably exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of costs, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act states that a public authority is not obliged to:

"...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit".

The Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Norfolk Constabulary as £450, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Advice & Assistance

Although excess cost removes Norfolk Constabulary's obligation under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Q1

Financial Year	Number of missing reports for under 18s
2013/14	1,163
2014/15	1,265
2015/16	1,063

Q2

Financial Year	Number of children missing at least once in a year
2013/14	650
2014/15	614
2015/16	555

Q5 There were 3 missing reports relating to under 18s as at 1st October 2016. This figure is only valid for that date, as the number will change as new reports are received and missing under 18s are located.